



Delaware Nutrient Management



The Delaware Nutrient Management Commission Budget/Program & Education (combined) Minutes of the Meeting Held December 13, 2005

In attendance:

<i>Committee Members Present</i>	<i>Ex-officios Present</i>
C. Larimore, Budget Chair	W. Rohrer, Jr.
B. Vanderwende	
B. O'Neill	<i>Others Present</i>
T. Keen	S. Hollenbeck
R. Sterling	M. Adkins
<i>Committee Members Absent</i>	J. Manchester
C. Solberg, P&E Chair	C. Robinson
R. Baldwin	M. Pielmeier
B. Schilling	
C. Fifer	

This meeting was properly notified and posted as required by law.

Call to Order/Welcome:

C. Larimore called the Budget/Program and Education Subcommittee meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

NONE

Discussion and Action Items:

Discuss DNMC Budget:

B. Rohrer reviewed the Agriculture 65-00-00, Nutrient Management, 65-00-01 budget (original attached to minutes). This report is utilized by the Joint Finance Commission and lists performance measures for Nutrient Management.

B. Rohrer provided an overview of the Agriculture Nutrient Management IPU Object Level Report (original attached to minutes). This report details the Nutrient Management budget by object code. The Nutrient Management program's budget for FY 2007 is as follows:

- Personnel: \$283,400
- Travel: \$4,000
- Contractual: \$317,900

- Supplies: \$5,500
- Poultry Litter Transport: \$246,000
- Nutrient Management Planning: \$451,800
- Information, Education & Certification: \$221,000

B. Rohrer noted Enhancements of \$3,500 is monies returned through funds paid to individuals for three years of nutrient management planning, but sold the farm the second or third year. This money is hard to recoup and once it is returned it is deposited in general funds for the state. Nutrient Management does not have access to these funds.

B. O'Neill asked if the department is adequately staffed. B. Rohrer stated it is his opinion the department needs five positions to run effectively. One of the office positions is paid through contractual funds and currently is filled by J. Baines. He would like to move it into a merit position but this task is very hard to accomplish. Therefore, the plan is to leave it this way for now as it works well.

J. Manchester stated the Commission should do more with cover crops. He asked if funding is available for this. B. Rohrer stated cost sharing for cover crops is not included in the budget presented, but noted the Commission would be requesting additional funding from the Joint Finance Committee and could possibly include funding for cost sharing cover crops. B. Vanderwende stated funding is available through other programs for cover crops and should go through those programs. B. Rohrer stated NRCS has a large budget and the Commission may be able to request funding from them for cost sharing cover crops. B. Rohrer stated he would contact the appropriate people and report back.

K. Foskey of NRCS stated when an individual applies for cover crop cost share they must identify where the cover crop will be planted, specifically in which field. These details are part of the contract. The contract could be written on a year-to-year basis. K. Foskey and B. Vanderwende noted that if the cover crop is not planted an administrative cost will be charged. It is noted that funding is provided through 319.

B. Vanderwende reiterated the Commission should not provide cost share for cover crops. His position is it should remain within the districts. It is noted that Sussex County devotes a large amount of money to cost sharing cover crops.

J. Manchester stated the number of audits referenced in Agriculture 65-00-00, Nutrient Management, 65-00-01 budget report should show growth. He noted that in FY 2005 and FY 2006 the program planned on conducting 15 audits for each year. B. Rohrer stated the intent is to audit 10% a year and the staff have continued with this protocol. Fifteen audits have been projected for both years as it had been forecasted the staff would be spending a lot of time with large Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs). J. Manchester stated that audits are a worth while activity and should show growth.

C. Larimore asked if the funding as presented needed to be recommended to the Full Commission. B. Rohrer stated it did. It was determined the Budget subcommittee did not have a quorum, but the Program and Education subcommittee did. Therefore, C. Larimore asked for a motion to approve the budget as presented through the Program and Education subcommittee.

T. Keen motioned to recommend the budget as presented to the Full Commission. R. Sterling the seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Rohrer reported L. Jones of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) received funding through the 319 program for a one-year position. One of the responsibilities of the position will be to write Nutrient Management plans. B. Rohrer reported he has been involved with this for sometime. He noted L. Jones preferred to fill the position instead of handling it contractually through the private sector. The position is not a merit position and would be contracted for

one year. L. Jones reported there is a candidate for the position. The candidate has a master's degree and is interested in the position for one year.

Since C. Robinson is leaving Nutrient Management, T. Keen asked how B. Rohrer would proceed in filling the vacancy. B. Rohrer hopes to fill the position by mid-January depending on the qualifications of the applicants.

Public Comments:

NONE

Next Meeting:

There was no meeting scheduled at this time.

Adjournment:

Chairman C. Solberg adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Approved,

Connie Larimore, Chair
Budget Committee

BRR/mrp